

# ANNUAL REPORT

## animal control

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**David Cygan**

***"I have enjoyed my time spent working with Animal Control and the Animal Control Advisory Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to work with the agency and develop community input into the agency's policy and operation. I believe it has created the possibility to improve the quality of life for both the citizens and animals of Lincoln."***

Animal Control officers responded to 18,515 service requests, and office staff handled over 44,000 calls from citizens regarding services needed, information on animal behavior, wildlife control, ordinances, and licensing. In addition, 2,867 lost and found calls were taken. There were 882 citations and 3,469 warning/defect tickets issued to pet owners violating local ordinances. Animal Control Officers responded to 841 injured animal calls or rescues and investigated 801 complaints of animal neglect.

Three dogs which were about to be declared vicious and destroyed were signed over to

Animal Control. In one case, an Akita had attacked a two-year-old child, waving her body in its mouth as if the child was a doll. A Dalmatian attacked a nine-year-old child who required major plastic surgery. An officer was bitten by an Airedale, who had previously been declared dangerous, when she responded to an attack on the owner's other Airedale by a German Shepherd.



Follow-up work on reported bites and attacks resulted in 12 dogs being declared dangerous and 26 potentially dangerous. In addition, 18 animals were signed over for destruction prior to a declaration.

Animal Control gave 95 presentations emphasizing bite safety and knowledge of animal behaviors to 3,297 preschool and elementary school children, plus several adult organizations and local animal clubs. An educational campaign was continued at the request of the Board of Health regarding the importance of cleaning up after your pet. Animal Control vehicles were fitted with signs encouraging citizens to clean

up after their dogs when walking and giving information on barking control, bite prevention, safety around animals and spaying or neutering their pets.

***The Animal Control Program serves to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Lincoln. In addition, the program serves to protect the welfare of animals and to prevent cruelty and neglect.***

Citizen donations of nearly \$12,000 financed the purchase of new videos, films and educational materials as well as the employment of a student intern, who develops new pamphlets, posters and display panels for use in schools.

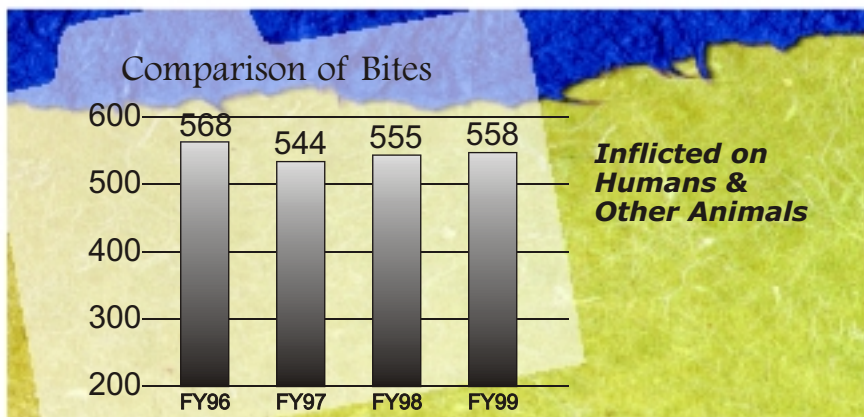


**Dylan Heath 1<sup>st</sup> place winner**

The proposed ordinance revisions approved by the Cruelty Task Force and Animal Control Advisory Board were approved by the Board of Health in August 1998. The City Attorney had not completed review by August 1999. However, the license and impound fee increase portion of those ordinances was approved in July 1999.

Total number of all types of animal bites reported to Animal Control increased from 555 to 558. Of the 489 bites inflicted on humans, 41% were inflicted on children younger than age 16.

Regulatory activities include pet shop inspections, livestock permits, dangerous and potentially dangerous dog declarations, wildlife removal, animal licenses, and taking complaints about animals.



***The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association on May 1, 1998 stated, "Dog bites are the number one health problem of children, outnumbering measles and mumps combined. Medical treatment for dog attacks costs society \$104.4 million annually, and liability claims paid by insurance companies in 1996 totaled a record \$1 billion."***

Animal Control had several cruelty cases which resulted in court citations and large court fines. In one case, a male individual was asked to leave the premises by the female owner. The male, who had been consuming alcohol, saw a puppy as he was leaving, picked it up and threw it to the ground, breaking the dog's rear leg. The puppy was taken to a veterinarian for treatment and subsequently signed over to Animal Control. The male individual was fined \$500.

Five adult horses plus a yearling impounded in May of 1997 for cruelty were sold at auction in March of 1999.

Animal Control's Educational/Government Access television show, "Our Best Friends," is in its eighth year. A talk show format is used to integrate guests and video clips. The show educates the public about responsible pet ownership, safety and the role Animal Control plays in the community. The show, which airs at least four times per week, is produced by staff and public volunteers.



Gary Foster

***"The Animal Control Advisory Committee is proud that our Animal Control Department has received national recognition for its programs and their impact on the quality of life for both pets and their owners in Lincoln and Lancaster County. The Committee is dedicated to helping Animal Control continue this leadership position into the next millennium."***

During the summer months, a booth was set up once a month at the Lincoln Farmer's Market, twice at the Lancaster County Fair (Health Awareness Day and Keeping Families First), at the Nebraska State Fair (Keeping Families First), Bryan Hospital Health and Safety Fair, Haymarket Hey Days, McDonald's Health and Safety Fair and the Animal Fair at East Park Plaza. Displays and/or booths were also set up at several Neighborhood Family Night Out events at neighborhood parks, local church and health fairs, the Cedars Home for Children, the Humane Society Open House, the Cat Show, the Safety and Health Fair at Pershing Auditorium, Kids Day at East Park Plaza, Mickel-Bush Neuter-Spay Day at Petco, the Early Childhood Celebration at State Fair Park, Star City Bud Club Fair at East Park Plaza, the Boy Scout Show at Pershing Auditorium, the Earth Wellness Festival, and several fairs at local schools, vet offices and community centers.

Animal Control aided in three proclamations:

1. National Pet Week for the City of Lincoln
2. National Pet Week for the State of Nebraska
3. National Dog Bite Prevention Week for the City of Lincoln.



## **Program Highlights**

Animal licenses sold 44,632  
Animals impounded 3,817  
Dogs and cats claimed 1,638  
Dogs and cats unclaimed and  
transferred to the shelter 2,042  
Licensed, stray animals delivered  
home 267

Court citations issued 882  
Warnings/defect tickets issued  
3,469  
Bite cases reported 558  
Pet shop, large animal, and other  
permits issued 70  
Animal neglect investigations 801

Lost and found queries 2,867  
Wildlife removal 477  
Dogs declared dangerous 12  
Dogs declared potentially  
dangerous 26